

Kindly amend the specification as follows:

Replace the paragraph at page 18, lines 17-28 as follows:

Suitable commercially obtainable polymers for use according to the present invention include, but are not limited to Resomer® polylactide polymers and copolymers (Boehringer Boehringer-Ingelheim) having the following product name designations: L104, L-206, L-207, L-208, L-209, L-210, L-214, R-104, R-202, R-203, R-206, R-207, R-208, G-110, 20 G-205, LR-909, RG-502, RG-502H, RG-503, RG-503H, RG-504, RG 504H, RG-505, RG-505H, RG-506, RG-508, RG-752, RG-755, RG-756 and Resomer® RG-858.

Replace the paragraph at page 18, line 29 to page 19, line 6 as follows:

Preferred surfactants include cationic, anionic, and non-ionic surfactants including, but not limited to Poloxamere® polyethylene-polypropylene glycol surfactant, Poloxamine® polyalkoxylated symmetrical block polymers of ethylene diamine surfactant, polyethylene glycol alkyl ethers, polysorbates (Tween®, Span®), sucrose esters (Sisterna®, Netherlands), sucrose esters (Ryoto Sugar Ester, Tokyo), gelatins, polyvinylpyrrolidone, fatty alcohol polyglycosides, Charps, Charpso, decyl-P-D-glycopyranoside, decyl-P-D-maltopyranoside, dodecyl-P-D-maltopyranoside, sodium oleate, polyethylene glycol, polyvinyl alcohol, polyethoxylated fatty acid ethers (Brij®), Triton X 100 or their mixtures. Amounts effective to provide a stable, aqueous formulation will be used, usually in the range of from about 0.1% (w/v) to about 30% (w/v).

Replace the paragraph at page 20, lines 19-26 as follows:

50 mL of a 4% Pluronic® F68 surfactant (which are block copolymers based on ethylene oxide and propylene oxide) solution in water is then added as continuous phase during

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agitation (10,000 rpm). After about 30 seconds of agitation, the microparticle suspension is transferred to a 500 mL two-necked flask and agitated with a magnetic stirrer. The solvent ethyl acetate is then eliminated at room temperature by applying a vacuum or by extraction with water. After 2 hours, the suspension is washed with 6 L of water or an aqueous solution and concentrated by centrifuging or filtration to the desired volume. Purification and concentration can be conducted more gently by crossflow filtration with a Sartocon mini® (Sartorius AG, Göttingen) system.